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14 May 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Training

SUBJECT : Weekly Activities Report

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1. Since the Language School has moved to its new quarters, we have made much greater use of the OTR Visual Aids Branch than was the case when we were in Rosslyn. Our Department Chiefs now have frequent contact with [] where before they had virtually none. We would like to compliment the graphics people on the enthusiasm and helpfulness with which they have responded to our requests for visual aids.

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[], who constitute a sub-committee for universally applicable training aids for the Language School, have made a great many demands on the time and talent of the artists across the street - and they have consistently given us complete cooperation and imaginative, professional products.

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2. After [] visit to the Monterey language school of the DLI, I invited the West Coast Commandant, Colonel Kibbey Horne, to visit us here. Since he will be in town next week to attend the DLI's conference on audio software, he will spend Monday afternoon at the Language School. Colonel Horne is a respected linguist as well as the manager of the largest language training effort in the country, so we expect that discussions with him will be fruitful.

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3. [], vice-chairman for OTR in this year's Savings Bond Drive, reports encouraging results from the first week's canvassing, with the Language School and ISS leading in the number of positive responses. An interesting sidelight is the fact that Savings Bonds seem to be getting some competition from the Voluntary Investment Program. At any rate, according to some keymen, a number of employees are giving their intention to join VIP as the reason for not initiating or increasing payroll deductions for savings bonds.

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GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

4. On 7 May a group of 29 cadets, members of the Russian and Chinese language clubs at West Point, visited Headquarters where they met informally with a panel of analysts in the USSR and China fields. Dr. Edward Proctor, the new DD/I, and Bruce Clarke, Jr., Director of OSR, participated for brief periods in the question-and-answer session which lasted most of the morning. [redacted] Chief of the Slavic Department at LS, attended to answer questions that might be asked about language training. The cadets showed a lively interest in the Agency language training program and particularly in the question of language qualifications as related to the recruitment of new employees.

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5. [redacted] attended the Southeast Conference on Linguistics meetings 7 - 9 May at the University of Maryland. Most of the discussion concerned the supposed speech areas of the brain and the neural networks involved in speech acquisition. Leading psycholinguists, psychologists, and physicians participated in the forum.

6. Last week the Testing Branch concluded a workshop on language proficiency testing. The sessions were conducted in small groups to assure maximum participation by the testers. Besides discussing the definitions of proficiency levels, the following general points were agreed upon:

a. that proficiency levels should be assigned the same interpretation, regardless of the difficulty of the language for an English speaker.

b. that grammar and vocabulary should contribute equally to a rating; pronunciation and fluency carry somewhat less weight.

c. that the assignment of a proficiency level is not a prediction of the success an individual will have in his job; it is only an evaluation of his ability to speak a language.

d. that "putting ideas across" is not the only relevant criterion for a proficiency rating; certain structural requirements must be met by the candidate as well.

e. that the numbers 1-5 will be used internally in LS to identify proficiency levels instead of the adjectives which were formally used.

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7. [REDACTED], our chief Swedish instructor, attended a conference on Scandinavian studies held last week in Kentucky. She had an opportunity to meet several of the leading scholars in the field, including Professor Einar Haugen of Harvard who wrote most of the materials we use in Norwegian. She also had a chance to look over new teaching materials that had been published in Swedish and Norwegian during the last year.

8. This week the Testing Branch tested an employee who claimed proficiency in Amharic. Because we do not have a testing capability in the language and the examinee could not go to the Foreign Service Institute for cover reasons, the test candidate rated himself by means of our newly-developed self-evaluation questionnaire. We supplemented the questionnaire by a controlled test in which questions were asked in English to elicit responses in Amharic. The recorded test was then sent to FSI to be rated. The rating that the examinee gave himself was close enough to the rating that he received from the FSI to strengthen our confidence in the questionnaire system.

9. Language School Statistics:

Students and Classes as of the week of 3 - 7 May 1971:

<u>Students</u>	<u>Classes</u>
Full-time - 88	Full-time - 38
Part-time - <u>166</u> (45 BAHLT)	Part-time - <u>56</u> (8 BAHLT)
(69 Hqs.)	(13 Hqs.)
TOTAL.....254	TOTAL.....94

Laboratory hours for the week of 3 - 7 May 1971:

Language School - 206
Headquarters - 44

There were 32 proficiency tests given during the week of 3 - 7 May 1971.

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Acting Chief, Language School

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